

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

April 6, 2005

IN RE:

PETITION OF ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION  
FOR APPROVAL OF FRANCHISE AGREEMENT  
WITH MARYVILLE, TENNESSEE

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DOCKET NO.  
04-00397

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ORDER APPROVING PETITION OF ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION FOR  
APPROVAL OF FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH MARYVILLE,  
TENNESSEE, PURSUANT TO TENN. CODE ANN. § 65-4-107

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This matter came before Chairman Pat Miller, Director Deborah Taylor Tate and Director Sara Kyle of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority"), the voting panel assigned to this docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on February 28, 2005 for consideration of the *Petition of Atmos Energy Corporation for Approval of Franchise Agreement with Maryville, Tennessee* (the "*Petition*") filed on November 8, 2004.

**Petition**

In its *Petition*, Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos" or the "Company") requests Authority approval, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-107 (2004), of a franchise agreement contained in a Maryville, Tennessee ordinance entered by the City of Maryville, Tennessee on August 3, 2004 and duly accepted by Atmos on August 10, 2004. As stated in the *Petition*, the ordinance grants Atmos the nonexclusive right to provide natural gas service in Maryville, Tennessee for a term of ten years, which shall be

renewed for an additional five years, unless the Maryville City Council votes not to renew within one year prior to the end of the initial ten-year term. A copy of the ordinance is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. No person sought intervention in this matter.

A Notice of Hearing was issued on December 30, 2004 scheduling a Hearing for January 31, 2005 on the merits of Atmos' *Petition*. On January 12, 2005, Atmos filed a motion requesting additional time to file direct testimony and to reschedule the hearing. Pursuant to a Re-Notice of Hearing issued on February 1, 2005, a Hearing on the merits of the *Petition* of Atmos was held on February 28, 2005. The Company was represented by the following counsel:

**Misty Smith Kelley, Esq.;** Baker, Donelson, Bearman & Caldwell, 1800  
Republic Center, 633 Chestnut Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37450.

#### **Requirement of and Standards for Authority Approval**

Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-107 (2004) provides that no grant of a privilege or franchise from the State or a political subdivision of the State to a public utility shall be valid until approved by the Authority. Approval pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-107 (2004) requires a determination by the Authority, after hearing, that "such privilege or franchise is necessary and proper for the public convenience and properly conserves the public interest."<sup>1</sup> Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-107 (2004) further provides that in considering such privilege or franchise, the Authority "shall have the power, if it so approves, to impose conditions as to construction, equipment, maintenance, service or operation as the public convenience and interest may reasonably require . . ."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-107 (2004)

<sup>2</sup> *Id*

### **Pre-filed Testimony of Russell Murph**

On February 11, 2005, Atmos filed the Direct Testimony of Russell Murph, Operations Manager for Atmos, Maryville, Tennessee. Mr. Murph stated that the natural gas distribution system of Atmos in Maryville contains approximately 349 miles of pipe and is interconnected with and dependent upon the distribution system located within the city limits of Maryville. Atmos serves approximately 8668 customers within the city limits of Maryville, of whom approximately 88% are residential and 12% are commercial and industrial. The majority of the pipeline in Atmos distribution system is located within the public rights-of-way. Mr. Murph stated that without access to these public rights-of-way, Atmos could not adequately operate, maintain, or replace its distribution system.

According to Mr. Murph, Atmos and its predecessors have operated for many years in Maryville under various franchise agreements with the City. Due to the expiration of the previous twenty-five year agreement, Atmos entered into negotiations with the City in 2002 for a new agreement. Representatives of Atmos contacted Maryville City Manager Gary Hensley and Assistant City Managers Roger Campbell and Greg McClain and negotiated the terms of the new agreement. According to Mr. Murph, the new franchise agreement was the result of arm's-length negotiations between Atmos and Maryville.

### **Testimony at the February 28, 2005 Hearing**

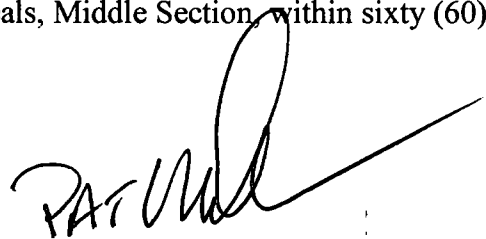
At the February 28, 2005 Hearing, Mr. Murph adopted his pre-filed testimony filed on February 11, 2005 and further testified regarding the Maryville franchise agreement.

### **Findings and Conclusions**

Atmos' franchise agreement with Maryville continues a longstanding arrangement whereby Atmos relies on the use of the City's public rights-of-way for the purpose of operating and maintaining its natural gas distribution system. This franchise arrangement, which was undisputed, has been and continues to be of mutual benefit to Atmos, its customers, and the community. The panel finds that this agreement is in the public interest. Accordingly, the Maryville agreement is approved pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-107 (2004).

### **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

1. The proposed franchise agreement between Atmos Energy Corporation and Maryville, Tennessee is approved.
2. Any party aggrieved by the Authority's decision in this matter may file a Petition for Reconsideration within fifteen (15) days of the date of this Order; and
3. Any party aggrieved by the Authority's action embodied herein may file a Petition for Review in the Tennessee Court of Appeals, Middle Section, within sixty (60) days from and after the date of this Order.



Pat Miller, Chairman



Deborah Taylor Tate, Director



Sara Kyle, Director

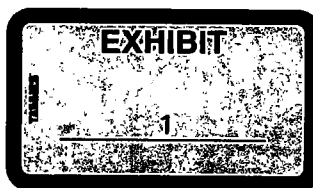
ORDINANCE NO 2004-34

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING TO ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, A FRANCHISE TO PROVIDE THE CITY OF MARYVILLE, TENNESSEE, WITH NATURAL GAS SERVICE, AND THE RIGHT TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE A SYSTEM OF GAS MAINS AND SERVICE PIPES FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRANSMITTING AND DISTRIBUTING GAS IN, UPON, ACROSS, ALONG AND UNDER THE HIGHWAYS, STREETS, AVENUES, ROADS, ALLEYS, LANES, WAYS, UTILITY EASEMENTS, PARKWAYS AND OTHER PUBLIC GROUNDS OF THE CITY OF MARYVILLE, TENNESSEE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARYVILLE, TENNESSEE, THAT.

SECTION 1 GRANT & TERM - There is hereby granted to Atmos Energy Corporation, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Texas, and the Commonwealth of Virginia, its successors and assigns (hereinafter for convenience, individually and collectively referred to as "Company"), the right, authority, privilege, and non-exclusive franchise to serve the City of Maryville (hereinafter for convenience referred to as "Municipality"), and in the providing of such natural gas service to construct, maintain and operate a system of gas mains, service pipes, regulator stations and all other necessary and appropriate equipment and facilities for the distribution of gas, in, upon, under, along, across and over the highways, streets, avenues, road, alleys, lanes, ways, utility easements, parkways and other public grounds in the present or future corporate limits of the Municipality, for the supplying of gas and its by-products to said Municipality and the inhabitants, institutions and businesses thereof, and for such other appliances, fixtures and facilities as may be necessary for the transmission, distribution and sale of such to said Municipality and the inhabitants thereof for domestic, commercial, industrial and institutional uses, and other purposes for which it is or may hereafter be used, for a period of ten (10) years from and after the passage and approval of this Ordinance unless such franchise is terminated sooner pursuant to Section 14 hereof The term of this Ordinance shall be renewed for an additional five-year period on the same terms and conditions unless such franchise is terminated sooner pursuant to Section 14 hereof or the City Council votes within one year prior to the end of the initial ten-year term not to renew The Company hereby agrees to provide such natural gas service to the Municipality and its inhabitants in accordance with the terms of the Ordinance

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SECTION 2: CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES - All gas mains, service pipes, fixtures, facilities and other appliances so laid, constructed and maintained by virtue of this Ordinance, shall be so laid, constructed and maintained in accordance with good engineering principles, good workmanship and with all applicable engineering codes and in accordance with any applicable Statutes of the State of Tennessee and the Rules and Regulations of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority or of any other governmental regulatory commission, board or agency having jurisdiction over the Company and in compliance with all applicable ordinances and regulations of the governing municipality. Said facilities shall be constructed as not to interfere with the drainage of said Municipality or unreasonably interfere with or injure any utility or any other improvement which said Municipality has heretofore made or may hereafter make in, upon or along any highway, street, avenue, road, alley, lane, way, utility easement, parkway, or other public ground, or unnecessarily impede or obstruct such highways, streets, avenues, roads, alleys, lanes, ways, utility easements, parkways, and other public grounds of said Municipality, and shall conform to the grade as then or hereafter established. The Company agrees to attempt to utilize known right-of-way whenever practical before resorting to right of condemnation to which the Company may be entitled to utilize by law.

SECTION 3: STREET SAFETY - When the streets, avenues, alleys and other public ways are opened, or any other opening is made by the Company within the Municipality, where the same is made for the purpose of laying, constructing, replacing or repairing the mains, pipes and other appliances and fixtures of the Company, the Company shall place and maintain necessary safety devices, barriers, lights and warnings to properly notify persons of any dangers resulting from such entrances, and shall comply with applicable safety regulations required by federal, state, and local laws.

SECTION 4: RELOCATION OF FACILITIES - In the event it becomes necessary or expedient for the Municipality to change the course or grade of any highway, street, avenue, road, alley way, parkway, or other public ground in which the Company is maintaining gas mains, pipes or other appliances and fixtures, then, upon the written request of the Municipality, the Company, at its expense, will remove or change the location or depth of such mains, pipes or other appliances and fixtures, as necessary to conform to the proposed street alteration.

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**SECTION 5. USE OF PUBLIC WAYS** - Whenever the Company plans to enter upon any highway, street, avenue, road, alley, lane, way, utility easement, parkway, or other public ground for the purpose of constructing, replacing or repairing any gas mains, pipes, or other appliances, it shall notify the Municipality of such work and shall file a plan or map of the proposed work, if practicable, before commencing same. The Company shall be responsible for payment of such fees and acquiring such permits as may be required for said work. Whenever any highway, street, avenue, road, alley, lane, way, utility easement, parkway or other public way shall be entered, dug up or disturbed by the Company, the Company shall, at its expense and as soon as possible after the work is completed, restore such highway, street, avenue, road, alley, lane, way, utility easement, parkway, or other public ground in as good condition as existed before the work was done. In the event the Company shall fail to fulfill its obligations under this section, the Municipality, after giving the Company reasonable written notice, and failure of the Company to make such repairs or restoration within three (3) working days after the receipt of such notice by the Company, may make the necessary restoration or repairs itself and the Company shall be liable and shall reimburse the Municipality for the cost of the same or in accordance with provisions that may be contained in any prevailing ordinance(s) or regulation(s).

The provisions of this section shall not be applied nor interpreted in such a way as to prevent or delay Company work that may be required as a result of any emergency, leak or other immediate hazard or danger.

**SECTION 6. LOCAL OPERATING PRACTICES** - The purpose and intent of this franchise is that the Company will provide and maintain in a good state of repair a gas distribution plant and facilities, including but not limited to, mains, pipes, appliances, equipment, machinery, fixtures, meters and customer services to and for the citizens of the Municipality. To achieve these ends, the Company will provide, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. An ample supply subject to interstate pipeline capacity and availability of natural gas for the present and future residential, commercial and industrial needs of the Municipality.
- B. Maintain and staff a customer service office within Blount County which is open to the public Monday through Friday during normal business hours. The Company will staff the office with a minimum of one qualified employee to

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provide customer service, including billing and payment inquiries, acceptance of service connection/disconnection orders, and to use its best efforts to resolve customer issues. The Company shall maintain said office during the term of this Ordinance unless the Company and Municipality mutually agree in writing that the operation of said office may be modified or closed at a later date;

- C Maintain and staff, or by contract, provide a location or location(s) within the Municipality where customers' gas bills may be paid during normal business hours at least five (5) days a week,
- D Pay the fees as set forth in Section 11, and
- E Maintain and staff a warehouse or repair depot in Blount County where parts, pipes, meters, tools, machinery and equipment are maintained and housed to service the company's facilities and its customers, including but not limited to, residences, businesses, and industries of the Municipality.

**SECTION 7: EMERGENCY SERVICES** - As a minimum, the Company shall maintain a staff of at least three (3) qualified persons where at least one (1) of such persons could respond to an emergency within the municipality within a reasonable amount of time. At least one (1) of the three (3) employees shall be available twenty-four (24) hours per day for performing emergency services. The Company shall provide adequate equipment and service personnel based in the Municipality or Blount County to respond to customer service calls from locations within the Municipality and shall provide the local public safety agency, including the Municipality's police and fire departments, the Company's toll free emergency telephone number and a current listing of direct local and pager numbers of the local Company's agents or employees to contact in case of emergency. In recognition that the Municipality is responsible for public safety functions and emergency response, Company commits to notify the City telephonically with a follow up by telefax or telephone call of any emergency affecting its distribution facilities within the Municipality. The parties will endeavor to coordinate an appropriate and reasonable response to any such emergency.

**SECTION 8: INDEMNIFICATION** - The Company shall at all times indemnify and hold harmless the Municipality from and against any and all lawful judgments and/or claims for injury to any person or property due to the failure to exercise due care and diligence of the Company, its

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employees, agents, servants, and contractors in the construction, maintenance, repair, installation, and/or operation of the system and its extensions, alterations, relocation, replacement of parts of the system and/or the failure of the Company to provide services or the negligence of the Company in providing services to citizens of the Municipality or in the City of Maryville service area. The Municipality shall not be liable for the failure of the Company to perform any of its obligations under this franchise irrespective of whether the Municipality's personnel has notice or information of any condition caused or contributed to by the Company which does harm to persons or property. However, any written notice of demand received by the City Manager against the Municipality on account of the Company's services, facilities, installations, repair work, or any other action of the Company or the inaction of the Company required by this franchise will be forwarded to the Company within twenty (20) days after its receipt.

**SECTION 9: TRA RULES AND REGULATIONS** – The Municipality and the Company hereby agree that this Ordinance shall from time to time be subject to rules and regulations adopted by the Company if approved by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority or any other regulatory body having jurisdiction thereof during the term of this Ordinance, and shall also be subject to all rules and regulations adopted and approved by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority or any other regulatory body and that all such rules and regulations shall be and come a part of this Ordinance to the same extent and with the same effect as if said Rules and Regulations were herein set out in full. The Company shall not be obligated or required to make any extension of distribution mains or service lines except in accordance with the provisions relating thereto adopted or approved by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, or any other regulatory body having jurisdiction thereof during the term of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 10: COMPANY RIGHTS** - Nothing herein contained shall be construed as preventing the Company from installing, placing, replacing, taking up, repairing or removing gas pipes, mains, service pipes or other devices for furnishing gas services, from using any easements for gas service which are shown on any plats of any portion of said Municipality heretofore or hereafter platted or recorded or any such easement which may hereafter be created, granted or dedicated for any such utility purposes by any person, firm or corporation whatsoever.

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**SECTION 11 FRANCHISE FEE** – As consideration for the grant of the franchise and right herein and for the use by Company of the streets, roads, highways, alleys, public ways and other real property owned or controlled by the Municipality, Company shall pay to the Municipality a franchise fee equal to the aggregate of the following

- A Five percent (5%) of Company's gross receipts derived from retail natural gas sales within the corporate limits of the Municipality;
- B One half of one cent per one hundred cubic feet (\$ 005/ccf) of natural gas transported by Company within the corporate limits of the Municipality during the preceding calendar year to each customer of Company who has elected to receive only gas transportation service from Company

The franchise fee shall be paid to the Municipality quarterly within sixty (60) days of the end of each quarter. The Company shall furnish to the Municipality a report showing the monthly amount of gross revenues, and commodity volumes by rate class, for Company's sale of gas within the Municipality on a quarterly basis.

Pursuant to T C A §65-4-105(e), Company shall pass all franchise fees paid to Municipality hereunder through as a line item charge on the bills of Company's customers served by Company within the corporate limits of Municipality. Company shall pay to the Municipality the gross receipts of the franchise fee with a reduction only for bad debt not actually collected by Company for the franchise fees. Company shall not be liable for any franchise fees not collected from customers served by Company within the corporate limits of Municipality who have failed or refused to pay the franchise fee. However, failure of payment of the franchise fee by any customer shall subject the customer to collection procedures, including potential cessation of service, if the franchise fee remains unpaid, in accordance with the usual collection procedures of Company for customers who have not paid their bill in full. Municipality and Company also acknowledge that this franchise, including the fees to be paid hereunder to Municipality, is subject to the approval of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA). In the event that this franchise or any portion hereof is not approved by the TRA or declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or the franchise fees hereunder uncollectible by Company or Municipality, then the parties agree to amend this franchise to provide an alternative measure of compensation to Municipality which yields an equivalent or approximate equivalent amount of compensation to Municipality.

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and that Municipality shall be solely responsible for refunding any franchise fees, or portion thereof, which are not approved by the TRA or declared invalid or uncollectible by any court of competent jurisdiction

Municipality will promptly notify Company in writing of any geographic areas annexed by the Municipality during the term hereof ("Annexation Notice"). Any such Annexation Notice shall be sent to Company by certified mail, return receipt request, and shall contain the effective date of the annexation, maps showing the annexed area and such other information as Company may reasonably require in order to ascertain whether there exist any customers of Company receiving natural gas service in said annexed area. To the extent there are such Company customers therein, then the gross revenues of Company derived from the sale and distribution of natural gas to such customers shall become subject to the franchise fee provisions hereof effective on the first day of Company's billing cycle immediately following Company's receipt of the Annexation Notice. The failure by Municipality to advise Company in writing through proper Annexation Notice of any geographic areas which are annexed by Municipality shall relieve Company from any obligation to remit any franchise fees to Municipality based upon gross revenues derived by Company from the sale and distribution of natural gas to customers within the annexed area until Municipality delivers an Annexation Notice to Company in accordance with the terms hereof

SECTION 12. BOOKS AND RECORDS— Upon the request of the Municipality, the books of the Company, including customer account numbers shall be produced at a mutually agreeable office of the Company in Tennessee for a franchise fee audit by the Municipality during normal business hours and upon reasonable notice at a mutually agreeable time. Except as stated above, no specific customer identity information such as name or address shall be required to be provided by Company to Municipality except for those customers who have failed to pay any franchise fees which may be due to Municipality. In addition to the books and records produced by the Company, the Municipality may require additional records from the Company as it may deem appropriated to conduct its audit.

SECTION 13. ANNUAL SYSTEM REPORT - The Company shall submit a written report and, at the Municipality's request, appear before the City Council at least on an annual basis to report on planned capital investments, extensions, system expansion, customer satisfaction and/or public safety response experience. The annual system report will include a comparison of

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rates and system performance measures (revenues, commodity sales, number of customers, etc ) for regional natural gas systems including but not limited to other systems operated by the Company and the systems operated by regional gas utilities In addition, the Municipality and the Company will endeavor to coordinate Company expansion and repair activities with Municipality's public works projects

**SECTION 14 DEFAULT AND CURE** - Both the Company and the City recognize there may be circumstances whereby compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance is impossible or is delayed because of circumstances beyond the Company's control In this instance, the Company shall use its best efforts to comply in a timely manner and to the extent possible In the event of a substantial breach by Company of any material provision of this Ordinance, the Municipality, acting by and through its City Council, may terminate the franchise and rights granted to Company hereunder, provided, however, that such termination shall not be effective unless and until the procedures described below have been followed:

- A. The Municipality must deliver to Company, by certified or registered mail, a written notice Such notice must (i) fairly and fully set forth in detail each of the alleged acts or omissions of Company that the Municipality contends constitutes a substantial breach of any material provision hereof within 30 days of the City's actual or constructive notice of the alleged breach whichever is later, and (ii) designate which of the terms and conditions hereof the City contends Company breached.
- B The City shall permit Company the opportunity to substantially correct and cure all of the breaches hereof set forth in the written notice described in subsection (A) above within thirty (30) days after Company's receipt of such notice before termination may occur
- C If the Company objects and disagrees with the City's determination that a substantial breach of a material provision has occurred, the Company may submit the issue to the City Council for review within thirty (30) days of receipt of the written notice described in subsection (A) above Termination of this Ordinance shall be stayed during the course of any such review or subsequent litigation on the issue until the matter is either resolved by agreement between

the parties or upon entry of a final order of a court authorizing termination by the  
City

In the event the Ordinance is properly terminated pursuant to the terms of this section prior to the expiration of the 10-year period or any renewal period thereafter, the Company shall not be entitled to claim lost profits against the City for the balance of time remaining under the 10-year period or any renewal period thereafter in a sale of assets to the City or any condemnation action. In the event of termination and/or expiration of this Ordinance, the Company may continue to operate on the same terms and conditions pending either a negotiated sale of its assets, negotiation of a new franchise or condemnation, whichever first occurs, with a minimum period of six months and a maximum period of 24 months, absent agreement of the parties.

**SECTION 15 ENTIRE AGREEMENT** - If any section or portion of any section of this Ordinance shall hereafter be determined by any court of competent authority to be invalid, the Company and the Municipality, at their election, may ratify or confirm the remaining portions of the Ordinance and upon such ratification or confirmation the remaining portions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 16 COMPANY ACCEPTANCE** - The Company shall, within sixty (60) days after passage of the Ordinance, file with the City Recorder or other appropriate officials of the Municipality its unconditional acceptance signed by its President or Vice President of the terms and conditions of this Ordinance and after filing of this acceptance, this Ordinance shall constitute a contract between the parties thereto and shall, subject to the rights and powers vested in the Tennessee Regulatory Authority or such other regulatory body of the State of Tennessee as may hereafter succeed to the rights and powers of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority or as may exercise statutory jurisdiction of gas companies furnishing gas service in the State of Tennessee, be the measure of the rights, powers, obligations, privileges and liabilities of said Municipality and of said Company.

**SECTION 17 NOTICES** - All notices required by this franchise shall be given in writing and forwarded to the addresses by certified mail of the United States. All notices to the Municipality shall be addressed to

City Manager  
404 W Broadway  
Maryville, TN 37801

cc. City Attorney  
329 Cates Street  
Maryville, TN 37801

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All notices to the Company shall be addressed to

Manager  
Atmos Energy  
Maryville, Tennessee

The return receipt of the certified mail shall be conclusive evidence of the receipt of the mail by the addressee.

**SECTION 18: ASSIGNMENT**

- A The Company shall not sell or assign its rights and privileges under this franchise without the prior written consent of Municipality, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. A merger, consolidation or reorganization involving Company shall not constitute an assignment for purposes hereof.
- B Nothing in this Section shall be deemed to prohibit a mortgage or pledge of the franchise or of its properties for financing purposes.

**SECTION 19: ABANDONMENT OF FACILITIES** – Upon abandonment of any of the facilities or equipment of the Company located above or below the surface of the Streets, the Company shall notify the City Manager in writing of such abandonment within a reasonable time thereafter and if such abandonment facilities or equipment will then interfere with the use of the Streets by the City, the City Manager within ninety (90) days of the notification by Company of the abandonment shall give written notice thereof to the Company and the Company shall commence to remove the same within twenty (20) days following the date of the written notice and continue the work to completion with reasonable diligence and at its own cost and expense.

**SECTION 20: INSURANCE** – The Company hereby agrees, upon official request of the City, to furnish to the city evidence of insurance on such amounts as may be reasonably necessary to protect the City. However, the coverage shall, at a minimum, include Workers' Compensation insurance covering the Company's statutory obligation under the laws of the State of Tennessee and Employer's Liability insurance for all its employees engaged in work under the franchise. Minimum limits of liability for Employer's Liability shall be \$100,000.00 bodily injury each occurrence, \$500,000.00 bodily injury by disease (policy limit); and \$100,000.00 bodily injury by disease (each employee).

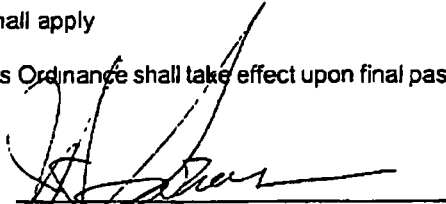
**SECTION 21: SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS** – All the privileges given and obligations created by this Ordinance shall be binding upon the successors and assigns of the Company.


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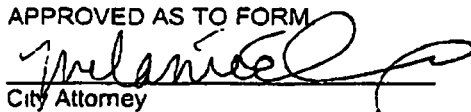
SECTION 22 SUPERSEDES PRIOR AGREEMENT - This agreement, upon its taking effect, shall supersede any and all prior ordinances and/or agreements, together with any amendments thereof, by the Municipality granting a gas franchise to Company.

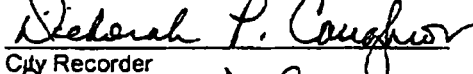
SECTION 23: APPLICABLE LAW - Company and Municipality agree that in the event of litigation regarding or involving this contract that such litigation shall take place in Blount County Circuit Court and that Tennessee law shall apply


SECTION 24 EFFECTIVE DATE - This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage, the public welfare requiring it

  
MAYOR

ATTEST  
  
City Recorder

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
  
City Attorney

Passed on 1<sup>st</sup> reading 7/21, 2004.   
City Recorder

Passed on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 8/3, 2004.   
City Recorder

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